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MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR ADDITIONAL INFO:
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Norfolk, Virginia – Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announced that Travis B. Boykin, age 28, of Virginia Beach, was sentenced on September 9, 2002, to 21 months imprisonment, a fine of \$250,000 and restitution of \$149,575.99 for his role in a scheme to create and process fraudulent travel claims with the Navy.

Boykin and co-defendants, Jamada Akii Johnson, age 28, and Edwin Lamont Price, age 30, formally of Virginia Beach, Virginia, were indicted by a federal grand jury in December 2001 and entered guilty pleas for their roles in this scheme which netted nearly \$150,000.00 in payments to its participants. Both Johnson and Price have already been sentenced.

All three defendants were on active duty in the Navy and working at the Personnel Support Detachment (PSD) at Naval Station Norfolk. The scheme, which took place between September 1998 and February 1999, consisted of recruiting both active duty personnel and civilians who participated by providing their names and social security numbers so that fraudulent Navy relocation and travel claims could be created and processed. U.S. Treasury checks in amounts ranging from \$400 to \$7,000 were issued in the names of these recruited individuals. Boykin and his co-defendants made arrangements for the recruited participants to go to PSD, sign for, and pick up the checks, and then accompany them to local banks where the checks were cashed and the proceeds split among the participants. To date, more than 20 participants have been prosecuted federally for their involvement in this scheme.

The investigation was conducted by the Naval Criminal Investigative Service and the United States Secret Service. Assistant United States Attorney Stephen W. Haynie handled the sentencing.